

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of managing and tracking blood products between a plurality of remote patient facilities and a central blood testing facility wherein a blood specimen is obtained from each patient who requires a blood reserve for possible transfusion and said specimen is transferred to said central blood testing facility comprising the steps of:

providing an inventory of blood products at said central blood testing facility;

selecting one of said blood products which has an available segment at said central blood testing facility;

detaching said segment from said blood product at said central blood testing facility;

transferring said one of said blood products from said central blood testing facility to one of said remote patient facilities at which said patient is located;

assigning said segment to said patient specimen for cross-matching at said central blood testing facility;

determining the antigens and antibodies present in said one of said blood products and said patient specimens;

remote serological cross-matching each said patient specimen and said segment of said blood product at said central blood testing facility to determine their compatibility with one another, and entering the results in said database;

~~determining~~ verifying the compatibility of said one of said blood products and said patient specimen specimens selected from the results entered in said database by comparing the antigens and antibodies in said one of said blood products and said patient specimens to determine whether each is present in each segment of said blood product and said patient specimen tested, and storing

said information in said database thereof;

managing said blood products by preparing a patient identification database of each of said blood products, segments and patient specimens and storing information in said database at each of said central blood testing and remote patient facilities which correlates each of said blood products, segments and patient specimens, their location and movement; and

tracking the location and movement of each of said blood products, segments and patient specimens in said database between said remote patient facilities and said central blood testing facility by displaying the information stored in said database relating to their location and movement.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of storing information is further characterized by storing each patient's special needs, prior transfusion reaction history, autologous blood availability, directed blood components, blood type and patient specimen expiration date.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 including the step of assigning said blood products and said patient specimens to a location within each of said remote patient facilities and said central blood testing facility and tracking any movement of said blood products and said patient specimens to other locations.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 including the step of displaying said patient identification

information on a computer at each of said remote patient facilities and central blood testing facility.

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 4 including the step of displaying said information on a patient bar on each said computer which is accessible to all users regardless of their location at each of said facilities.

6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 further characterized by cross-matching a segment of each said blood product and each said patient specimen at said central blood testing facility, assigning each said segment and each said patient specimen to a location in said central blood testing and remote patient facility, and recording said location in said database.

7. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2 including the step of selectively displaying the absence or presence of each item of information stored including special needs, patient comments, prior transfusion reaction history, autologous blood availability, directed blood components, blood type, presence of unexpected antibodies, patient specimen expiration date and reserved blood components.

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of cross-matching includes the step of producing a product identification tag and attaching to each said blood component.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) A method for managing and tracking blood products, patient specimens and segments between a plurality of hospitals and a central blood testing facility wherein a computer database is provided for recording information and a screen is provided for displaying said information, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a blood specimen from each patient requiring a blood product to be reserved for possible transfusion;

assigning a segment of a blood product for cross-matching;

remote serological cross-matching each said segment and said patient specimen at said facility to determine their compatibility with one another;

managing each said segment and said patient specimen cross-matched by identifying each said segment, said component and said patient specimen with patient identification information and recording said patient identification information ~~on~~ in said database; and

tracking the location and movement of each of said segments, said products and said patient specimens between said hospitals and said facility.

11. (currently amended) A method according to claim 10 further characterized by ~~determining~~ verifying the presence of antigens and antibodies in each said segment and said patient

specimen tested after entering said information in said database.

12. (currently amended) A method according to claim 10 including the step of ~~testing the compatibility of~~ determining said antigens and antibodies present in said segment and said specimen prior to said cross-matching.

13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 characterized by periodically updating the compatibility of said antigens and antibodies and recording said information in said database.

14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 10 including the step of tracking the location of each said segment and said patient specimen by recording their movement between said test facility and patient location.

15. (previously presented) A method according to claim 10 including the step of recording the antigens and antibodies in each said patient specimen in said database.

16. (previously presented) A method according to claim 10 including the step of recording prior transfusion reaction history of each said patient in said database.

17. (previously presented) A method according to claim 10 including the step of recording autologous blood availability in said database.

18. (previously presented) A method according to claim 10 including the step of recording blood type of each said blood product and said patient specimen.

19. (previously presented) A method according to claim 10 including the step of recording the specimen expiration date of each said segment and said patient specimen.

20. (previously presented) A system for managing blood products and tracking their movement between a central blood test facility and a plurality of hospitals wherein a computer is provided for processing data including a screen for displaying information, said system comprising:

managing means having first means including a database for entering information pertaining to each patient requiring a blood reserve, second means for entering blood type information for a blood specimen from each said patient, third means for recording a blood type for a blood product assigned to each said patient, fourth means for recording on said database results of comparing antigens and antibodies of each said patient specimen and said blood product;

fifth means for recording on said database results of serological cross-matching of each said patient specimen and said blood product; and

tracking means for tracking the location and movement of each of said blood products and patient specimens between said blood test facility and said hospitals by displaying

on said screen the information stored in said database relating to their location and movement.

21. (previously presented) The system according to claim 20 including means for recording special needs of each said patient on said database including means for indicating the presence of said special needs.

22. (original) The system according to claim 20 including sixth means for recording the prior transfusion reaction history of each said patient including means for indicating the presence of a prior transfusion reaction.

23. (original) The system according to claim 20 including seventh means for recording autologous blood availability and its location for each said patient including means for indicating the presence of an autologous donation for said patient.

24. (original) The system according to claim 20 including eighth means for recording directed blood donations for each said patient including means for indicating the presence of said directed.

25. (original) The system according to claim 20 including ninth means for recording the expiration date of each said patient specimen on said database including means for indicating the expiration date of each said blood specimen which is current and non-expired.

26. (previously presented) The system according to claim 20 including tenth means for comparing antigens and antibodies of each said patient specimen and said blood product.

27. (canceled)

28. (original) The system according to claim 20 including eleventh means for recording components of said blood products which have been reserved for said patient including means for indicating the presence of said reserved components in inventory.

29. (previously presented) In a blood management system for managing information relating to blood products between a central blood test facility and one or more remote patient facilities wherein a computer is provided for processing data, a database is provided for recording said information and a screen is provided for displaying said information recorded, the improvement comprising:

managing means including means for recording information identifying each patient requiring a blood reserve on said database, means for obtaining and recording a blood specimen from each said patient, means for assigning a segment of a blood product for cross-matching, means for remote serological cross-matching each said segment and said patient specimen at said blood test facility to determine their compatibility with one another, means for identifying each said segment and said patient specimen,



and means for assigning said segment, said blood product and said patient specimen to a location in one of said blood test facility and said remote patient facilities.

30. (previously presented) A system according to claim 29 including means for entering antigens and antibodies presented in said blood specimen and said segment on said database; and means for comparing said antigens and antibodies to determine their compatibility.

31. (original) In a blood management system according to claim 29 including means for displaying information relating to the location of each of said segments and said patient specimens.